

independent claim 16 has been amended to include the threaded member for rotatably engaging the wire to thereby place claim 16 into allowable condition as well as the dependent claim 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

In regard to allowable claim 23 it is submitted since parent claim 22 is now in allowable condition the dependent claim 23 is also in allowable condition.

In regard to independent claim 24, independent claim 24 has been amended to include the threaded member and the threaded recess to place claim 24 into allowable condition. Accordingly, the dependent claims 25-41, which are now dependent on allowable claim 24, are also in allowable condition.

Method claims 42-47 were rejected because the office stated that they were identical to the apparatus claims. In order to address the office comments, claims 42 to 47 have been amended bring out the step of forming a branch attachment electrical connection without having to cut the wire and as well as the encapsulation of the electrical connection with the sealant carried in the housing of the wire connector. Accordingly, claims it is submitted that claims 42-47 are now in allowable condition as well as newly added dependent claim 48.

In regard to objections to the form of claims 15, 17, 22, 30, 35 and 39, the claims have been corrected per the suggestions of the Examiner

In summary, it is submitted that the remaining claims 1-3 and 5-48 are now in allowable condition and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. As the total number of claims in the case remains the same no additional fee is due for extra claims; however, since an additional independent claim is included the office is authorized to charge the additional fee of \$100 to deposit account 10-0210.